United Nations A/55/L.43

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
24 November 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 33
Culture of peace

Argentina, Bangladesh, Benin, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Egypt, El Salvador, India, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Senegal and Thailand: draft resolution

International decade for a culture of peace and non-violence for the children of the world (2001-2010)

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Charter of the United Nations, including the purposes and principles contained therein, and especially its dedication to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war,

Recalling also the Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization which states that, since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed,

Recalling further its previous resolutions on a culture of peace, in particular resolution 52/15 of 20 November 1997 proclaiming 2000 as the International Year for the Culture of Peace, and resolution 53/25 of 10 November 1998 proclaiming the period 2001-2010 as the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World,

Reaffirming the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace contained in General Assembly resolution 53/243 of 13 September 1999, recognizing that it serves, inter alia, as the basis for the observance of the Decade and convinced that effective and successful observance of the Decade throughout the world will promote a culture of peace and non-violence that benefits humanity, in particular future generations,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World,[1]

[1] A/55/377.

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Recalling Commission on Human Rights resolution 2000/66 of 26 April 2000, entitled "Towards a Culture of Peace",[2]

Emphasizing the particular relevance of the Decade for the special session of the General Assembly, in 2001 for follow-up to the World Summit for Children, to be held in New York, and for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, to be held in South Africa in 2001,

Taking into account the Manifesto 2000 initiative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization promoting a culture of peace, which has so far received over sixty million signatures of endorsement throughout the world,

1. *Recognizes* that the objective of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World is to strengthen further the global movement for a culture of peace following the observance of the International Year for the Culture of Peace in 2000;

2. *Notes with satisfaction* the engagement of Member States, the United Nations system and civil society during the International Year for the Culture of Peace at the national, regional and global levels and, in this context, recognizes the role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization as the focal point during the year;

3. *Invites* Member States to place greater emphasis on and expand their activities to promote a culture of peace and non-violence, in particular during the Decade, at the national, regional and international levels and to ensure that peace and non-violence is fostered at all levels;

4. *Welcomes* the establishment of more than two hundred national committees and national focal points in over one hundred and sixty countries in the context of the observance of the International Year of the Culture of Peace and stresses the importance of their continued close involvement in furthering the objectives of the Declaration[3] and Programme of Action[4] on a Culture of Peace and in the effective observance of the Decade;

5. *Designates* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization as the lead agency for the Decade with responsibility for coordinating the activities of the organizations of the United Nations system, as well as liaison with the other organizations concerned;

6. *Recognizes* the important role of relevant United Nations bodies, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund and the University for Peace, in further promoting a culture of peace and non-violence, particularly by means of special activities during the Decade;

7. *Requests* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to disseminate widely in various languages the Declaration and

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[2] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Supplement No. 3* (E/2000/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[3] Resolution 53/243 A.

[4] Resolution 53/243 B.

Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace and related materials, in particular throughout the Decade;

8. *Calls upon* the relevant United Nations bodies, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, to promote both formal and non-formal education at all levels that inculcates a culture of peace and non-violence;

9. *Invites* civil society at the local, regional and national levels to widen the scope of their activities to promote a culture of peace and non-violence, engaging in partnerships and sharing information, thus contributing to a global movement for a culture of peace, and encourages civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to further the objectives of the Decade by adopting their own programme of activities to complement the initiatives of Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and other global and regional organizations;

10. *Stresses* the importance of the media and of the new information and communication technology in further promoting a culture of peace and non-violence, especially among children and young people;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session in 2005 a report on the observance of the Decade at its mid-point and on the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action, taking into account the views of Member States and in consultation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and other relevant bodies of the United Nations system;

12. *Invites* civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to provide information to the Secretary-General on the observance of the Decade and the activities undertaken to promote a culture of peace and non-violence;

13. *Decides* to devote one day of plenary meetings at its sixty-first session to the consideration of the item, including a review of the progress made in the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, as well as the observance of the Decade at its mid-point, with the participation of all relevant actors;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session;

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "Culture of peace".